

Atlantic City
4 miles Northeast of South Pass City
on Southpass Road
Fremont County
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-60

HABS
WYO,
7-ATCI,
1-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20005

ATLANTIC CITY

HABS
WYO,
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1-

Location: Atlantic City, 4 miles Northeast of South Pass City on Southpass Road, Fremont County, Wyoming.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS Atlantic City Quadrangle Map) 12.686520.4707220.

Statement of One of the three major towns in the South Pass Historic
Significance: Mining District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Historical Events and Persons Associated with Atlantic City:

The town of Atlantic City was founded in 1868. It is located four-and-one-half miles northeast of South Pass City. The city was laid out by Messers. Tozier, Collins, and Thompson. The town soon had a population of 2,000 and a large number of buildings. However, most of these buildings were never occupied, but merely erected by land speculators.

By 1870, the population of Atlantic City had dropped to 325. Of this group, 321 were white and 4 were black. Although this represented a significant decline in the population of the city, there was still considerable mining activity in the area until 1878.

Atlantic City had the first brewery in Wyoming and was equally famous for its "French" section in which the miners enjoyed the pleasures of wine and women.

Between 1870 and 1877, the town benefitted economically from Camp Stambaugh which was located nearby and offered protection to the miners from marauding Indians. Also, during this boom period, a Frenchman named Emil Granier came to the city with plans to start a massive mining operation in the area. Unfortunately, a series of disasters plagued the operation, including an explosion which killed and injured several men. Granier returned to France, financially destitute, where he spent his last years in debtor's prison.

For some time the town seemed to be on the verge of becoming a "ghost town," however, about 1952 a group of prospectors, including state geologist Albert Bartlett, made approximately twenty-four claims on iron ore in the Atlantic City area. Some of these claims were recorded while others were not. These prospectors

interested the Cleveland Cliffs Company of Michigan, a major iron mining company, in their claims. At that time, the iron companies were just beginning to realize the potential of mining taconite, a hard, low-grade iron ore which occurs near Atlantic City.

Representatives of Cleveland Cliffs sent samples back to Michigan and their engineers reported that they were unable to work out a treatment to separate the ore from the rock. Consequently, they neither recorded nor perfected their claims, and the next spring the rights to the claims were sold to the Ruby Company of Boise, Idaho. They in turn transferred the claims to the United States Steel Corporation. In 1954, the Western Ore Operations division of United States Steel Corporation began working on plans for the Atlantic City operations. United States Steel Corporation began constructing a multi-million dollar mine and concentrating plant in 1960. They also began construction of a 76-mile private railroad to Winton Junction for connection with the Union Pacific railroad mainline. This work was completed and operations begun in 1962. This activity has resulted in Atlantic City becoming an active community with some 10 permanent residents, a well-known restaurant (Miner's Dining Room), a bar (The Mercantile, WYO-63) an Episcopal Church (WYO-64) and an Art Gallery (Olde Shack Art Gallery).

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views:

Photographic office, Bureau of Land Management Office, Lander, Wyoming. The Western Historical Research Center, Coe Library, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Bartlett, Albert B., former state geologist and a former member of the Wyoming Planning and Water Conservation Board; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on May 31, 1973.

Files on South Pass City, Wyoming State Archives and Historical Research Department; Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Trevor, Marjorie C., "History of Carter-Sweetwater County, Wyoming to 1875." Master's Thesis, University of Wyoming, 1954.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Homsher, Lola M. and Pence, Mary Lou. Ghost Towns of Wyoming. New York: Hastings House, 1959.

Murray, Robert. A Report on the Significance and Development Potential of Certain Sites in the South Pass Historic Mining Area, Fremont County, Wyoming. Lander Wyoming's Bureau of Land Management, 1971.

United States Steel Corporation. Atlantic City Ore Operations.

Prepared by J. William Rudd, Architect
Project Supervisor
and John Paige
Project Historian
National Park Service
Summer 1973

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhler, University of California, at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.